

Law on the Frontlines

Legal Reference for Public Libraries



Navigating the Law: Family Law

This session is being recorded

TMSLL/CMCLLD/MdA2JC 2022 04 rev.

Introductions



Catherine McGuire
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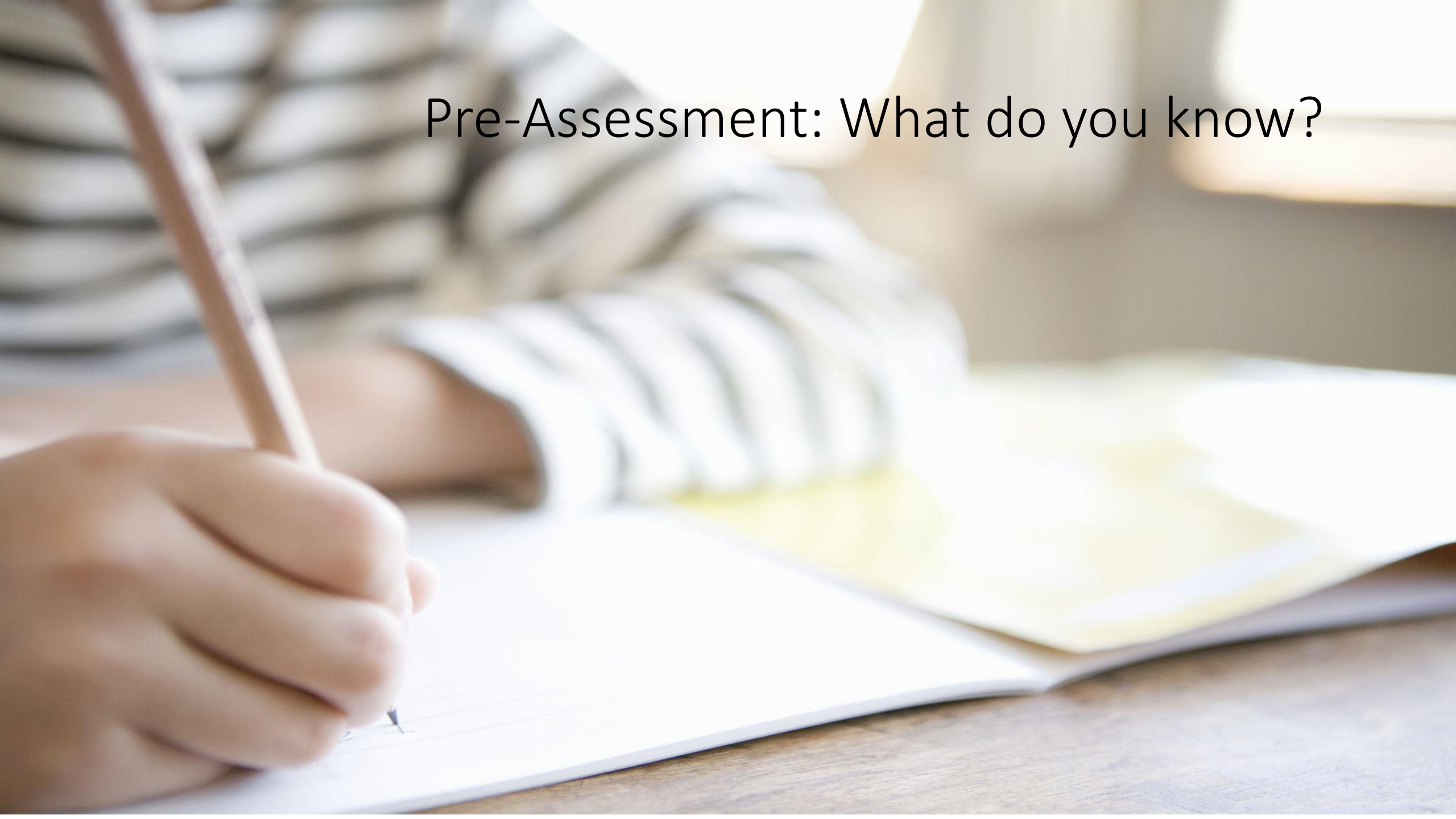


Julia Viets
Director
Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library



Joan Bellistri
Director
Anne Arundel County Public Law Library

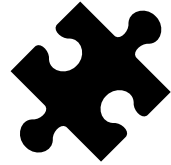
Pre-Assessment: What do you know?



Learning Outcomes



Describe the general topic of law



Identify best descriptive resources



Utilize primary sources of law for the topic



Assess and select among options for referral

Access to Justice

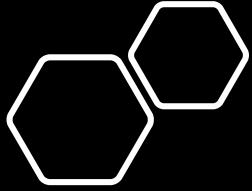
A quick review...



What is Family Law?

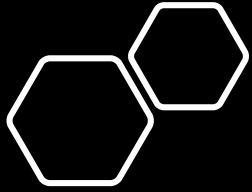
- Divorce
- Alimony
- Child Custody
- Child Support
- Visitation Rights
- Guardianship
- Paternity
- Name changes

Domestic violence can also be grouped with family law.



Common Conflicts

- Child support – modification or non-payment
- Visitation schedule – modification or breach
- Guardianship of a minor or an adult
- Birth certificate issues
- Establishing paternity

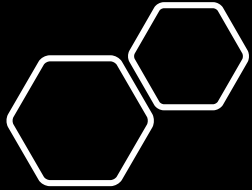


Details to Know

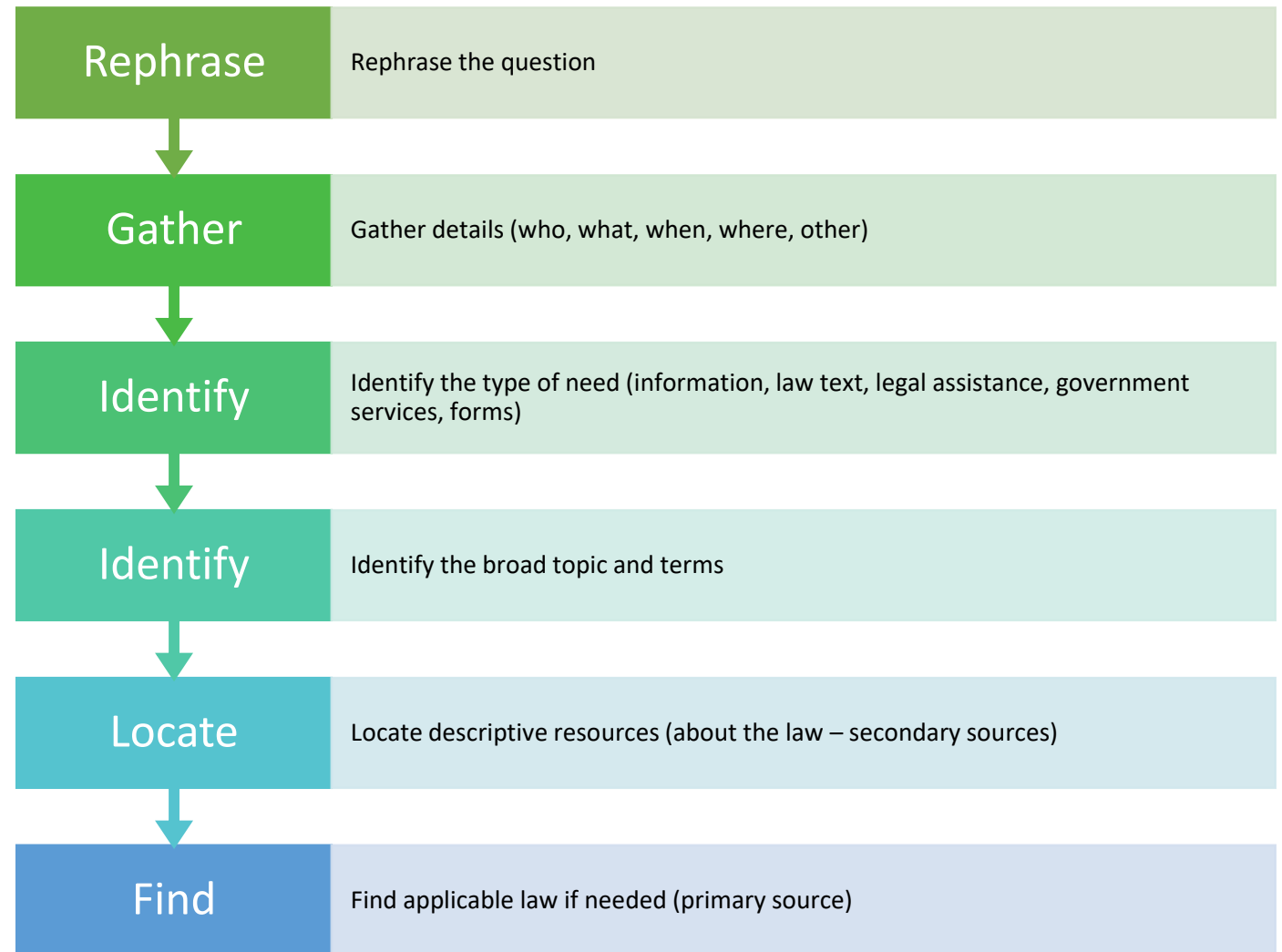
Maryland state law establishes how marriage and family are defined, established, and dissolved

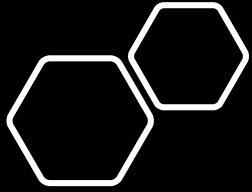
Maryland State law handles most processes for divorce, child custody, and child support

Federal law increasingly passes broad-level legislation within areas such as child welfare, child support services, adoption, and child protection.



Best Practices Review





Descriptive Resources

Maryland People's Law Library

www.peoples-law.org

Maryland Courts

mdcourts.gov

Nolo (website and texts)

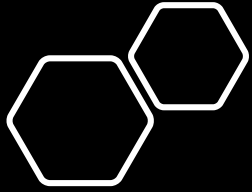
nolo.com

Demonstration: Descriptive Resources

Practice: Using Descriptive Resources

Choose one of the questions below. Then, using the resources just demonstrated (PLL, MdCourts, Nolo), see if you can locate resources to respond. Note which resource you used and if and where you found helpful information.

1. My father is elderly and has been diagnosed in the early stages of dementia. Is there a way I can get the authority to manage his finances?
2. My ex is several months behind on support payments. I know he earns plenty, he just doesn't want to pay. How do I get the money I need to support our children?



Law and Court Procedures

Maryland Code,
Family Law Article

Maryland Rules, Title
9 - Family Law Actions

Demonstration: Primary Sources

Practice: Using Primary Sources

1. Using the Family Law Article of the Maryland Code, locate the section that addresses someone having their maiden name restored after divorce.
2. Using the Maryland Rules, find the Rule that provides a general form for a Statement of Marital and Non-Marital Property.

Forms

- Maryland Family Law Court Forms
<https://mdcourts.gov/family/family-forms>
- Maryland Court Forms Finder
<https://mdcourts.gov/courtforms/finder>
- Maryland Courts Guide and File
<https://mdcourts.gov/guideandfile>
for help completing forms online

Connect to Legal Assistance



LOOK LOCAL!



Court Help Centers – mdcourts.gov/selfhelp

Note: not all family help centers assist with adult guardianship



Family Court Help Centers –
mdcourts.gov/family/familyselfhelp



Women's Law Center of Maryland – wlcmd.org



Maryland Legal Aid – www.mdlab.org



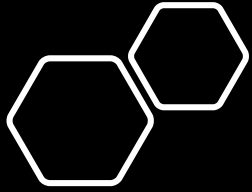
Law Libraries – mdcourts.gov/ccll



PLL Legal Services Directory – www.peoples-law.org/directory

Practice: Finding Referrals

- Not including the specific referrals already discussed – can you identify an organization, either state or local, that may assist with family law questions?



Self-Study

- [People's Law Library: Family Law Articles](#)
- [Maryland Family Law](#), by Cynthia Callahan (LexisNexis 2021)
- PLL [Family Law for the People](#) (seminar and handbook)
- [Maryland Court Help Videos](#), especially the [Family Videos](#) collection



Re- Assessment: What do you know?





Questions?